


The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 13, 1989

Published Since 1877



In 1987 gifts
through the Cooperative
Program supported
7,522 Southern Baptist
missionaries

In 1980
5,981

In 1970
4,723

In 1950
1,451

In 1925
1,555

Cooperative Program Day
April 16, 1989

"Win them All—Give"—2 Peter 1:5

Nurses send vitamins, eyeglasses overseas

In its three years of existence, the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship has sent more than 900 pairs of glasses and 22,500 children's chewable vitamins overseas. That is only the beginning of their plans for ministry.

Sponsored by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, the organization has volunteered to participate in a number of home and foreign missions projects. Besides the eyeglasses, respiratory therapy equipment has been sent to missionary nurse Jeni Hester for use in Colombia, South America.

In addition, the Louisville chapter of BNF purchased a Rescusi-Annie for use in the continuing education ministry of the Baptist hospital there. Hundreds of used sheets have been rolled into bandages for use in the hospital at Eku, Nigeria.

Many toiletries and maternity clothes have been collected for the cottage for unwed mothers at the Baptist Children's Village.

Many volumes of bound nursing journals have been sent to mission hospitals in Gaza and Nigeria.

The vitamins have been sent to Myrtice Owens for use in her rural clinics in Namibia. Myrtice writes that through the vitamin project "you are making it possible to reach many more in health care but also in sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ. They come for medicine when they won't attend church, so it is a real avenue of witness. We praise God for the BNF of Mississippi."

Current mission projects in which the Baptist Nursing Fellowship is involved include collecting the

infants, prenatal vitamins and/or funds for postage to send them to Namibia; toiletries and maternity clothes for the cottage for unwed mothers; Rolled bandages made from used sheets; Good used clothing (sizes NB to 4) for the Kersey Children's Home in Nigeria; Cord clamps; Disposable gloves; Penlights; Blood pressure cuffs; Stethoscopes; Used surgical and OB instruments; Used respiratory therapy equipment.

Those who may wish to become involved or who wish to know more about BNF may contact Vicki McCall, 303 Camp Garaywa Road, Clinton, MS 39056 (924-3556) or Ashley McCaleb, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (968-3800).



Nurse Vicki McCall examines the eyeglasses and vitamins ready to be shipped overseas for missionary use.

Eastern pilot looks to God, not airline, for security

By Joe Westbury

ATLANTA (BP) — When Eastern Airlines pilot Jim Hopkins found himself in the middle of a strike at the 60-year-old airline, he didn't expect to learn a spiritual lesson from the labor strife.

But Hopkins, a member of First Church, Newnan, Ga., an Atlanta suburb, has turned potential career disaster into a ministry to other pilots affected by the strike. Nearly 1,100 Eastern pilots are based in Atlanta at the airline's largest hub.

"Eastern employees have been under tremendous stress since the airline was sold to Frank Lorenzo three years ago," Hopkin explained. Unions did not take to Lorenzo's management style, and contract negotiations have been at the boiling point since the acquisition.

The Chattanooga, Tenn., native was in his 24th year with Eastern when the three-year-old labor dispute grounded the international carrier March 4.

Today, instead of flying Boeing 727 jets around the nation, Hopkins is part of a lay ministry formed to minister to pilots caught in the dispute.

Hopkins is no stranger to personal ministry. For 15 years he has been a volunteer in lay renewal with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

Then his wife Karen told him that this was the perfect opportunity to remind others that God was in control of the future.

"I was able to remind friends that God, not an employer, was in control of my life. That's when I came to the realization that there is life after Frank Lorenzo and Eastern Airlines."

Hopkins' biggest test came when the International Association of Machinists struck the carrier in early March and called on the pilots for support.

"It wasn't a struggle whether the unions were right or management was right," Hopkins said. "My struggle centered around my obedience to God in that situation."

"Because people were using Scripture to justify a variety of stands on the issue, I began to study my Bible even more closely. Though I respected the authority of my employer and felt obligated to cross the picket lines, my decision eventually changed."

"I decided that unless it was illegal, immoral, or unethical, the Air Line Pilots Association (pilots union) was the recognized bargainer for my contract with Eastern, so I should follow their decision to honor the picket lines."

Consequently, Hopkins joined 11 Christian pilots who also were seeking a biblical response to the strike. The group, which called itself the Concerned Christian Pilots Committee, has now grown to 55 members as it seeks to minister to others in the profession.

Joe Westbury writes for the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, 500 Taureau of Nashville, Tennessee

Ten-church team sees baptisms in Mexico

By Rachel Sanford

A tired, but enthusiastic, group returned to their homes, March 19, with nine days of memories of a mission experience they would not soon forget. Thirty-three representing 10 churches left on March 10, for a trip that would take them more than 1,600 miles to Grace Baptist Church, Nariz, Mexico, which would be their home and the scene of revival services for the next few days.

The four nights of services were led by the three pastors in the mission group, Glenn Shoemake, Paul Blange, and Tim Myers. Bob Thames, minister of music at Willow Grove Church, Collins, took part in the services, leading in the music and

rendering special music.

Special music was also provided by Shoemake and Ronnie Blackwell.

The first baptismal service since the church was organized more than six years ago was held on Wednesday, when the group saw six people baptized. Four more people were saved during the services that followed. The village came to the altar to pray for our needs, for our safety and that we would come again. They prepared meals while the group, along with some of the men from the village, worked on the church, painting the outside, finishing sheetrock, and painting the inside, finishing the ceiling and building a closet for storage, and

wiring the church and installing lights.

Two nurses in the group, Becky Reynolds and Becky Myers, saw the people who were ill, dispensing medicine that had been donated for the trip. Joyce Pickering, a beautician, assisted by Rachel Sanford, gave haircuts and manicures.

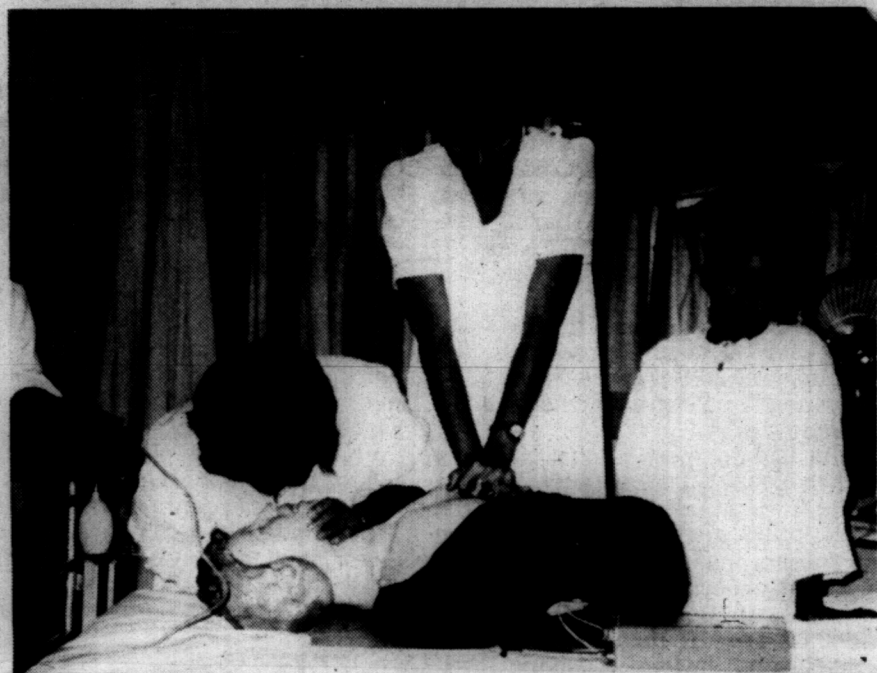
A survey was made, a map and pictures of the 27 homes making up the village, then a day was spent with the group visiting in most of these homes.

The Willow Grove group included Dan Pickering, Joyce Pickering, Joy Pickering, Ronnie Pickering, Rachel Sanford, Bob Thames, Tom Reynolds, Becky Reynolds, Zack Reynolds and

Jessica Reynolds and were accompanied by Glenn Shoemake, pastor of Evergreen, and his son, Robert, and by Paul Blange, pastor of Society Hill Church. They were joined by Laurie Dement, Vernon Herrin, Chip Brunney, Danny Baker, John White, Tim Myers, Becky Myers, April Myers, Archie Douglas, Ronnie Blackwell, Marc McArthur, Sue McArthur, Bennett McArthur, Seth McArthur and six RA boys from their church.

The entire group was met by Sammie Myers and his wife Delores, who visit and work in the village of Nariz many months of the year. Alberto Rivera was interpreter.

Rachel Sanford is church clerk, Willow Grove, Collins.



Nursing students in Columbia practice with Rescusi-Annie, a teaching device for respiration study.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Pass it on

"Walk about Zion," the psalmist declared, "and go round about her: tell the towers thereof."

He continued, "Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following."

That is an apt instruction for all of us concerning the Cooperative Program. We must pass the word on to the generation following, or the younger folks will not know what is meant by Cooperative Program. They will not know that it is a way of sending missionaries carrying the Word of God all across the nation and to all areas of the world.

Regardless of the fact that we have 14.7 million members and 37,000 churches, we could not begin to do what we do in the way of missions if we did not have a cooperative way of doing it — a cooperative program that we call the Cooperative Program.

It is a simple plan. Each church decides how much it wants to give to the missions effort and dispatches that amount to the state convention of

fices. The decisions all the way along are made by majority vote, and so it is with the state convention. That vote determines how much will go on to the Southern Baptist Convention to be placed directly into missions endeavors. Then by vote also that convention decides how the gifts will be divided. At this point, roughly, about 50 percent goes to the Foreign Mission Board; and about 20 percent goes to the Mission Board. The remaining 30 percent goes to fund all of the other areas of work, including the six seminaries, the Radio and Television Commission, all of the other commissions and committees, and the Executive Committee.

Our children will not know about nor understand this concept if we do not continue to tell them about it. We must pass it on if we are to continue to carry out the Great Commission in the manner in which we have set ourselves to do. And we must not let our own interests lag as we carry out that commitment.

The continuation of the finest mis-

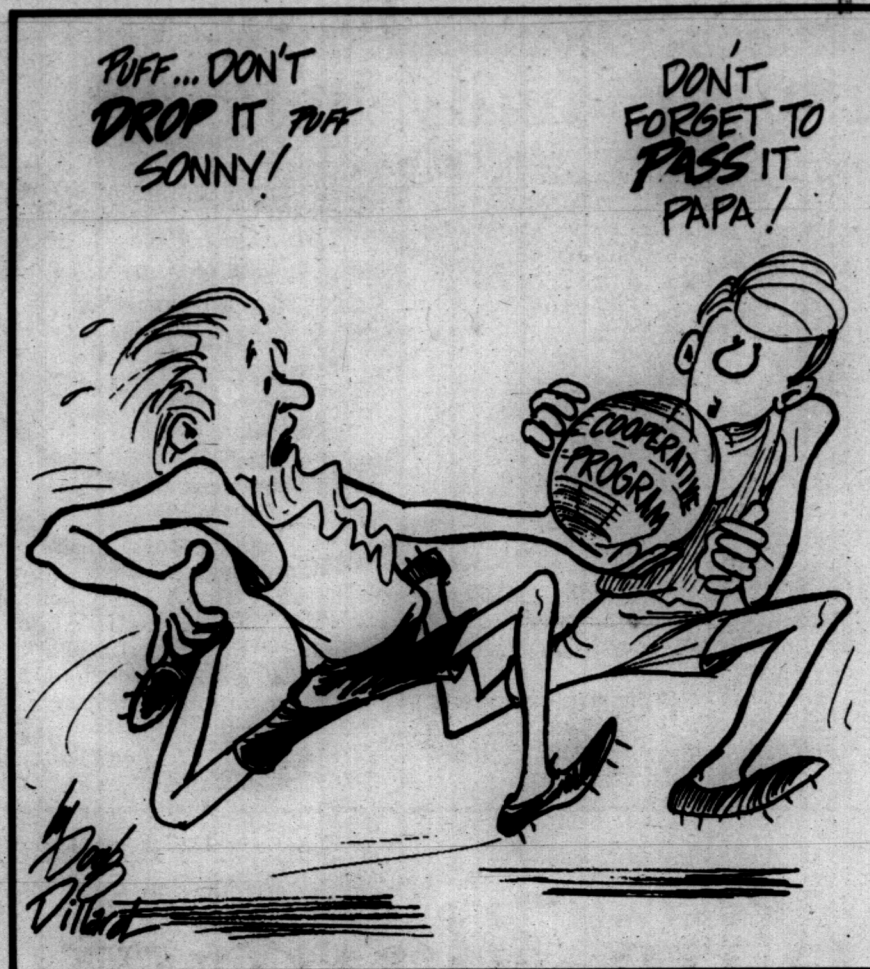
sions funding and gospel spreading program ever conceived depends on us.

Zion is a beautiful site as it is outlined in modern day Jerusalem. It is the mount on which a part of the city is built. Across the street from the wall surrounding the western part of the old city sits a restaurant with open windows on its east side. One can sit in the restaurant and look out on the Tower of David on Mount Zion. It is a beautiful sight as floodlights bathe the wall and the tower.

And then there is the promise that the psalmist passes on to us: "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

We have no choice. There is no fear of failure.

April 16 is Cooperative Program day. Passing on the word of the Cooperative Program and using its open pipelines to missions fields should be continuing parts of our ministry. April 16, however, provides an opportunity to give this missions lifeline a special emphasis.



Baptist beliefs . . . Predestination

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"In love having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself." — Ephesians 1:5

To many, "predestination" means that all things are predestined to happen when, where, and how they do. However, this is more fatalism than faith. Unfortunately, this interprets the English word, not the Greek word it translates.

The Greek word is *proorisas*. *Horizo* means to set a boundary or limit. From it comes "horizon," the limit of our vision from where we stand. The prefix *pro* means to set the boundary beforehand. God did this from eternity. And note that he did it "in love." In the Greek text this is the beginning of verse 5.

In a sense, in eternity God set a boundary beforehand or before he created the universe and man. The all-wise God knew that man would sin

and need a Savior. So forgiveness was in God's heart before sin was in man's heart.

So let us say that God built a fence around an area. The fence is Christ. He said that all inside the fence or "in Christ" would be saved. All outside the fence or not "in Christ" would be lost. In 11 verses (Eph. 1:3-13) Paul uses "in Christ" or its equivalent 10 times. As one endowed with the right of choice, each person is free to choose whether to be in or outside Christ.

Thus we are not puppets whose eternal destiny is arbitrarily set by God before we are born. In love God has provided a Savior. Whether or not he is your personal Savior depends upon you.

Herschel H. Hobbs is pastor-emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Hymns Baptists sing . . . Just when I need him

By William J. Reynolds

William C. Poole, a young Methodist minister, had a keen interest in writing poetic verse. He enjoyed fitting words together, finding rhyming sounds, and aligning word accents. Out of his own personal concern for an awareness of the presence of Christ in his life, Poole began shaping poetic lines around this idea.

His careful choice of words, the lyric flow of the lines, and the rhymes tying the stanzas together crystallized his thinking as the stanzas began to take shape. When he had completed "Just When I Need Him Most," he sent

it along with several other poems to Charles H. Gabriel, a composer then living in Chicago.

Of the poems he received from Poole, Gabriel was most impressed with "Just When I Need Him Most," and very soon he had completed the music for it. The finished song was published in 1909 and was widely used.

Gabriel was a native of Iowa. He moved to Chicago from California in 1892 and opened a music studio. Among the close friends he made there were D. L. Moody, J. Wilbur

(Continued on page 6)

Guest opinion . . .

The Cooperative Program is up

By James Austin

The year was 1976. The meeting place was Norfolk, Virginia. Were you there?

It was an exciting time of dreaming, thinking, and committing ourselves, our denomination to sharing the Gospel with everyone on this planet by the year 2000. We called this Bold Mission Thrust.

Since the adoption of the challenging Bold Mission Thrust goals, the number of dollars given through the Cooperative Program annually is UP dramatically.

In 1987 Southern Baptist churches shared \$134,787,542 with the Southern Baptist Convention. Compared to the \$46,718,469, given in 1976, Cooperative Program dollars are UP and have almost tripled.

Well, if Cooperative Program dollars are UP, then why aren't we celebrating instead of saying there isn't any real growth in giving.

Let me explain. While the number of mission dollars have grown from almost \$46 million to about \$135 million, the percentage of undesignated income in Southern Baptist churches has dropped from 8.83 percent in 1976 to 8.41 percent in 1987.

Instead of a bold growth in commitment to share the gospel with every person in the world by 2000, there has actually been a decrease of financial involvement.

Let's consider using the PERCENTAGE PLAN rather than the dollar method to accomplish Bold Mission Thrust. The percentage plan clearly indicates the exact proportion of a church's total budget receipts current-

ly being given for world missions. It provides attainable and regular steps for increasing the proportion of Cooperative Program gifts. The percentage plan permits a growing commitment and much-needed annual increase.

The Bible teaches proportionate giving. As God blesses us he expects us to give more to his work through the church. As churches grow in size and maturity, their ability to support missions grows. God measures what we do in relation to our ability.

The percentage plan is easy to follow. Lead your church to adopt a specific percentage of its undesignated budget receipts to be given through the Cooperative Pro-

gram. Set a challenging percentage goal and increase each year toward that goal by some percentage.

When a church mails its Cooperative Program gifts to the state office on Monday, these gifts should be providing a Christian witness in Asia, Africa, North and South America, and around the world in just a few days.

Determine your church's Cooperative Program gift by multiplying your church-adopted percentage for Cooperative Program by that week's undesignated offerings. For example: Your church has decided to give 18 percent of its budget through the Cooperative Program and

(Continued on page 4)

They sang my song

They sang my song during chapel at the Baptist Building last Friday. "They" were some of the fine voices in the Baptist Building, and they did a beautiful job. There were about 12 of them.

A couple of weeks ago, in relation to Bold New Growth Mississippi, I raised the hope that somebody would sing a song that has been credited to me that is in the songbook that was designed to go along with Bold New Growth Mississippi. Last week, the group, under the direction, urging, and organization of Graham Smith,

church music director for Mississippi Baptists, sang the song.

I say the song has been credited to me. Actually, it was sort of a plain song when I got through with it. Then Irene Martin took over and made a beautiful song out of it. The rendition by the Baptist Building folks was lovely.

Dot Pray was the accompanist.

Thank you, Graham, et al, for doing that. It came as a surprise to me. With Graham, I suppose, if it can be done, it will be done.

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Conference to view multi-family housing

A series of conferences on ministry to persons in multi-family housing will take place in four locations in Mississippi, May 8-11.



Richard Brogan, consultant for the MCB in Cooperative Missions reports that "Builders and real estate people project that by the year 2000 more than 50 percent of all Americans will be living in multi-family housing: apartments, condominiums and co-ops, mobile home parks and highrise complexes."

He adds, "If these strategic areas of our nation are to be evangelized, we must find ways to touch these residents with the gospel."



Welford

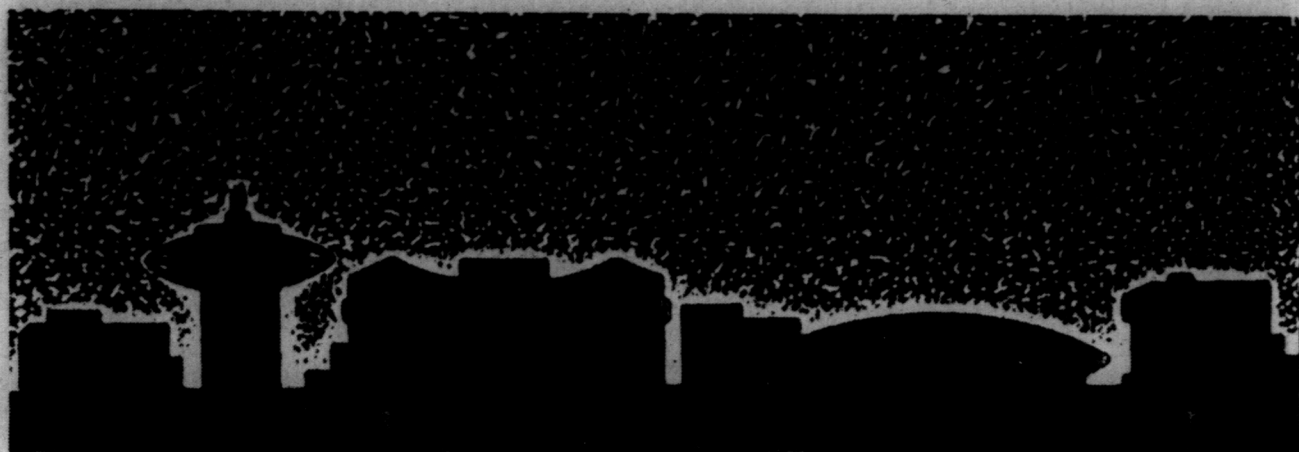


Mayfield

Speakers for the conferences include Gary Mayfield, professor of sociology and social work at Mississippi College; Joan Stovall coordinator of multi-family housing for the New Orleans Baptist association; Tim Welford, director of multi-family housing and outreach for Lee County Association; and Brogan.

The conferences are scheduled from 9 a.m. through lunch in each

(Continued on page 5)



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Las Vegas

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 13, 1989

Published Since 1877

Noonkester says Carey won't close coast campus

By Tim Nicholas

Ralph Noonkester, president of William Carey College, in a press conference last Thursday said that, despite rumors to the contrary, Carey has no intention of closing down its coast campus at the first of summer. And he promised to make public the official report of a Mississippi Education Commission inquiry into the school's operation.

"The first and foremost thing that I want to dispel is that this college would even consider closing a coast campus or any phase of this college at the beginning of the summer term," he said.

He continued, "Anybody who puts this into a news release is simply

speaking that which has not been even under consideration by the administration of the trustees of the college."

The press conference was attended by the Baptist Record, the secular press, and by senior administrators of the college, plus Joe Dale, trustee chairman.

Carey, is in the midst of two inquiries into its operation — the accreditation team for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools just completed its scheduled on site visit, and the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission is working on an investigation of administration and finances following allegations of

mismanagement by a minority of trustees late last year. Noonkester named the three outside educators called in by the the Education Commission to aid in the investigation. They are William Troutt, president of Belmont College in Nashville; James Tanner, chief academic officer of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.; and James Edwards, president of Edwards and Associates, and former chief business officer of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Noonkester also noted that the Education Commission had contracted with Arthur Andersen and Co., to look at Carey's books. He said the accounting firm had been waiting for the accrediting team to leave the campus last week before beginning its work. In a later interview, William Stewart, chairman of the Education Commission, said that Anderson was doing what amounts to an independent audit of Carey's books. He said he hesitated to offer a date for completion of the Commission report to Carey, but indications were that it would be finished before the middle of summer.

And Noonkester promised that whatever report the Education Commission makes to Carey's trustees will be made public.

Concerning the coast campus, Noonkester noted that the 96 apartments built two years ago are costing \$25,000 per month and that they have about 65 rented, some by Gulf Coast Community college students. He promised all would be occupied by the fall term. He said the general fund had been making payments. Builder

(Continued on page 5)

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference

Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nevada
June 11-12, 1989

Theme: "Facing Our Challenges with Confidence"

Sunday Evening, June 11, 1989

- Ralph M. Smith, presiding, pastor Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas
- 5:45 Concert Danny Martinez, director, Immanuel Baptist Choir and Orchestra, San Bernardino, Calif.
- 6:00 Congregational Singing Joe T. Carrell minister of music, Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas
- 6:05 Welcome and Prayer Michael Rochelle pastor, West Oakey Baptist Church, Las Vegas
- 6:10 Solo Johnny Hall music evangelist, Overland Park, Kan.
- 6:15 Message Johnny Jackson, vice president, Paul Jackson Evangelistic Association, Little Rock, Ark.
- 6:45 Presidential Greeting Jerry Vines president, Southern Baptist Convention, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 6:55 Choral Praise Immanuel Choir and Orchestra
- 7:05 Message Howard Gates, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
- 7:35 Congregational Singing Joe T. Carrell
- 7:40 Solo Johnny Hall
- 7:45 Message John C. Click, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Topeka, Kan.
- 8:05 Congregational Singing Joe T. Carrell
- 8:10 Offertory Prayer Ted Cotten, pastor, Lodi Avenue Baptist Church, Lodi, Calif.
- Choral Offertory, Immanuel Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra
- 8:20 Solo Martha Branham, soloist, Dallas
- 8:25 Message Charles Stanley pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 9:00 Benediction Jay Strack, evangelist, Dallas

Monday Morning, June 12

- Rob Zinn, presiding, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, San Bernardino, Calif.
- 8:30 Concert Todd Bell, director, youth choir, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
- 8:45 Congregational Singing Joe Estes, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Calif.
- 8:50 Scripture and Prayer Paul Stephens, associate pastor, Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas
- 8:55 Solo Joe Estes
- 9:00 Message Neal T. Jones, pastor, Columbia Baptist Church, Falls Church, Va.
- 9:25 Congregational Singing
- 9:30 Solo Andrew Culverwell, music evangelist, Nashville
- 9:35 Message Larry Lewis, president, Home Mission Board
- 10:00 Choral Choir Phillip Landgrave, director, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
- 10:15 Congregational Singing
- 10:20 Offertory Prayer A.J. Kennemer, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Glendale, Calif.
- Choral Offertory, Southern Baptist Seminary Choir
- 10:30 Solo Andrew Culverwell
- 10:35 Message Darrell Gilyard, pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, Garland, Texas
- 11:05 Congregational Singing
- 11:10 Solo Madeline Jones, music evangelist, Longview, Texas
- 11:15 Message John Bisagno, pastor, First Baptist Church, Houston
- 11:45 Benediction Lonnie Chavez, director of language church extension, California Southern Baptist Convention, Fresno

(Continued on page 4)



William Carey College president Ralph Noonkester is flanked by college administrators during a press conference he called to discuss Carey's situation.

Leavell outlines challenges facing New Orleans Seminary

By C. Lacy Thompson

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Three key challenges facing New Orleans Seminary — a declining pool of ministerial students, a decrease in ministerial income, and decline in support from the Southern Baptist Convention — were outlined during the annual board meeting March 14-15 by President Landrum P. Leavell II.

New Orleans Seminary has continued to grow despite the shrinking pool of students, Leavell said. The school's enrollment dipped last fall but now reflects an increase and is one of the four largest theological seminaries in the world.

However, attracting students is more difficult now because of the presence of non-convention-related schools and new in-house theological programs at Baptist universities, he said.

"Where it's going to stop is anyone's guess," he noted. However, the situation "took a turn for the worse" when the Southern Baptist Executive Committee granted annual convention exhibit space to Criswell College in Dallas, Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla., and Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Leavell said.

"It gives the appearance of saying,

'All these are the same.' This is roughly equivalent to putting Wycliffe Bible Translators and World Vision on either side of the (SBC) Foreign Mission Board and letting them compete for Southern Baptist missionaries.

"The point is the six Southern Baptist seminaries are no longer competing in the family for students." Now they must compete with schools that have no accountability to Southern Baptists, Leavell noted.

In addition, Southern Baptist seminaries are bound by convention policy to solicit funds only from individuals, corporations, and foundations, while the non-SBC schools have no such restrictions and can approach churches for funds, he said.

In addition to recently voted 2.05 percent decreases in operating funds for all SBC agencies, including the seminary, NOBTS has been hit by the faltering Louisiana economy and increases in health and medical benefits and city utility costs, Leavell said.

Despite the concerns, trustees approved a new budget that represents a 1.5 percent increase from the current year.

The approved 1989-90 budget stands

at \$6,759,091.

He urged trustees to make a commitment of time and energy to "safeguard the purposes for which this situation was founded" and to respond to unwarranted criticism against the six seminaries affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Anyone who criticizes the seminaries as a group is speaking from "ignorance at best and malice at worst," he said.

During the annual meeting, trustees passed a resolution commending Leavell for his "leadership skill, forthright demeanor, love for God's word and outstanding role model."

Trustees elected Ernest L. Carswell Jr., pastor at First Church, Taylors, S.C., chairman. Other officers are Paul Moak, an automobile dealer from Jackson, Miss., vice chair; Reuben Thomas, an oil company executive from Metairie, La., secretary; and Charles Wood, pastor of University Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., treasurer.

Lacy Thompson writes for Louisiana Baptist Message.

Ole Miss BSU will dedicate new center

The Baptist Student Union of Ole Miss will hold a dedication service for its new center on April 16 at 2:30. A reception follows.

Cost of the new 9,000 square foot building is \$488,692 and was paid out of Cooperative Program gifts.

Architect was Craig, Simmons, Singleton, and Jackson. Contractor was Bill Anderson of Elliott Lumber Company, Oxford. And the interior designer was Berle Smith of Jackson.

Keith Cating, BSU director, reports that about 450 students have involvement with BSU. Professions of faith for 1987-88 totaled 31.

Cooperative Program . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Sunday's undesignated receipts were \$875. Eighteen percent of \$875 is \$157.50, which would be your church's Cooperative Program portion of that particular Sunday's offerings.

Each dollar your church sends or doesn't send makes a difference in everything Southern Baptists are doing at home and around the world in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

James Austin is vice president of the Stewardship Commission, SBC.

Pastors' Conference

(Continued from page 3)

Monday Afternoon, June 12

Ralph M. Smith, presiding

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1:15 Concert | Joe T. Carrell |
| 1:30 Scripture and Prayer | Ken Morgan, pastor, Manor Baptist Church, Tucson, Ariz. |
| 1:35 Congregational Singing | |
| 1:40 Choral Praise | Alan Celoria Family Singers |
| 1:50 Message | Gordon Graham, pastor, First Baptist Church, New Braunfels, Texas |
| 2:20 Congregational Singing | |
| 2:25 Choral Praise | Alan Celoria Family Singers |
| 2:35 Message | Tom Elliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla. |
| 3:00 Congregation Singing | |
| 3:05 Offertory Prayer | Frank Lewis, pastor, Green Valley Baptist Church, Las Vegas |
| | Choral Offertory, Hyde Park Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra |
| 3:20 Election of Officers | |
| 3:45 Solo | Joe T. Carrell |
| 3:50 Message | Rick Warren, pastor, Saddleback Valley Community Church, Mission Viejo, Calif. |
| 4:20 Congregational Singing | |
| 4:25 Solo | Madeline Jones |
| 4:30 Message | Joel Gregory, pastor, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas |
| 5:00 Benediction | Brad Allen, pastor, First Baptist Church, Duncan, Okla. |

Monday Evening, June 12

Ralph M. Smith, Presiding

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 6:30 Congregational Singing | John McKay, music evangelist, Keller Texas |
| 6:35 Scripture and Prayer | Bill Jagers, director of evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, Ky. |
| 6:40 Choral Praise | Alan Celoria Family Singers |
| 6:50 Message | James F. Eaves, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary |
| 7:20 Congregational Singing | |
| 7:25 Solo | Amy Brantley Sheehan, soloist, Park Hills Baptist Church, Austin, Texas |
| 7:30 Message | J. Harold Smith, evangelist and president, Radio Bible Hour Inc. Newport, Tenn. |
| 8:00 Congregational Singing | |
| 8:05 Offertory Prayer | Joe S. Ratliff, pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church, Houston |
| | Choral Offertory... Hyde Park Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra |
| 8:15 Presentation from Broadman Press | |
| 8:20 Choral Praise | Joe T. Carrell |
| 8:30 Message | Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. |
| Introduction of New Officers | |
| Benediction | New President of Pastors' Conference |

Gulfshore staff reunion planned for May 13

Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, is trying to locate those people who served on the Gulfshore summer staff from 1978-1988. The service is planned for the Saturday evening and night after the Dedication of the Phase II project.

The reunion will start the afternoon of May 13 and will include a banquet Saturday at 7 p.m. Meetings by years will be conducted after the banquet, and former staffers will gather for a Bible study and vesper service Sunday morning in the auditorium building.

Former Gulfshore staffers are cur-

rently serving on the mission field, in churches across the state, as well as in lay leadership positions in churches.

Reservations are necessary for this event at Gulfshore. Additional information and a tentative schedule of events can be secured by writing to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571 or calling 452-7261. Parents and friends of former staffers are encouraged to help locate all of those who have served at the Assembly by providing information, said Simmons.

HAS GOD CALLED YOU INTO A CHURCH-RELATED VOCATION? Are you currently serving as a pastor, minister of music, minister of youth, or minister of education?

Do you feel led to serve as a chaplain or as a missionary? If so . . .

FLORIDA BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE will prepare you for these ministries!



"Equipping The Called"

(owned by the Florida Baptist Convention)



- Low tuition costs
- Inexpensive on-campus housing (3 BR Brick)
- V.A. Benefits and other scholarship programs
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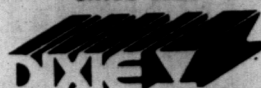
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Stewardship sets budget

By James H. Cox

MORRISTOWN, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission received the results of a three-year research program, adopted a new budget, and elected officers during its annual meeting here March 14-15.

The proposed 1989-90 budget is \$2,393,700, an increase of \$65,750 over the current total. Commissioners requested a 1990-91 allocation of \$550,000 from the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget, up from \$480,395 anticipated in the 1989-90 budget.

The stewardship research program was conducted by Montgomery Research Consultants of Atlanta. It examined Southern Baptist patterns and perceptions of giving.

The marketing plan lists a variety of program components, or "specific tasks to encourage a renewed commitment to stewardship development" and promotion of the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget "on the part of pastors and the laity." Program components include:

— "Ask every church to prepare an

annual budget.

— "Adopt an annual overall stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion plan which will centralize attention and concentrate efforts toward a common objective.

— "Ask church leaders to develop a stewardship inventory" to create a "stewardship profile, making explicit (which) segments of the membership to target for specific stewardship appeals."

— "Encourage pastors to incorporate brief stewardship ideas in messages from the pulpit and in newsletters.

— "Encourage seminaries to include stewardship and Cooperative Program education in the ongoing curricula.

— "Allow, to the degree feasible, state (stewardship) directors to have stewardship development or Cooperative Program promotion as their primary function. (Mississippi has stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion in one department.)

— "Define the role of tithing . . . for

all Southern Baptists. Support of the tithe should be an accepted responsibility of all church leaders.

— "Communicate the work and accomplishments of missionaries to all churches in easy-to-understand materials, describing the Cooperative Program and its efforts.

— "Recognize that the best opportunity for raising the level of stewardship commitment is through interpretation of the scriptural teachings which are the cornerstone of understanding the Christian commitment to stewardship."

In other business, commissioners re-elected John Wallace, a Morristown businessman, to a second one-year term as chairman.

The commission endorsed a recommendation calling for a study of the feasibility of providing stewardship and fund-raising materials for ethnic Southern Baptists.

James Cox is associate editor of the Kentucky Western Recorder.

Lewis opposes new SBC agency, Southern Baptist Alliance seminary

By Joe Westbury

ATLANTA (BP) — Wrestling with shrinking funds for home missions, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis opposes creation of a new Southern Baptist Religious Liberty Commission and plans for a new Southern Baptist Alliance seminary.

Creation of the new agencies would drain resources away from home and foreign missions, Lewis told trustees during the board's spring meeting March 10 in Atlanta.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has recommended creation of the Religious Liberty Commission to

represent the convention in Washington. The Alliance, an organization of convention moderates, has approved plans to begin a new seminary in Richmond, Va.

The denomination does not have adequate financial resources to fund another agency, Lewis charged, and said the new Washington-based Religious Liberty Commission would duplicate efforts being addressed by the SBC Christian Life Commission and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"Please do not misunderstand me. I do not oppose the decision to fund an office of the Christian Life Commis-

sion in Washington to represent Southern Baptists regarding critical moral and social concerns. I simply fail to see the wisdom of having three offices representing Southern Baptists in our nation's capital," said Lewis.

The new commission, in order to become a reality, must be approved by majority votes by messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings. The new commission would eliminate the current Public Affairs Committee, through which SBC representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee are named. Lewis is a voting ex-officio member of the PAC.

He reminded the board members that the Executive Committee estimated funding of the new agency would require a minimum of \$500,000 to \$750,000 a year — money that normally would be channeled to home and foreign missions endeavors.

Lewis then said he equally is opposed to plans announced by the Alliance to start its seminary.

Directing board members' attention to the upcoming SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., Lewis expressed concerns about how controversy at the convention might affect the planned evangelistic thrust.

"I believe Satan will do everything he can to destroy Bold Mission Thrust and embarrass Southern Baptists in Las Vegas," he predicted.

Lewis encouraged Baptists to arrive early to participate in a day of witnessing Saturday, June 10, to provide an evangelistic thrust and help start 25 churches in the state.

Joe Westbury writes for the HMB.

Senior Adult Day for the north: May 2

North Mississippi Senior Adult Area Enrichment Day will be May 2.

The Area 4 meeting will be held at Starkville, at First Church. Program messages will be brought by Bobby Douglas, First, Columbus; James Haggard, Crystal Ridge, Louisville; Bob Gray, West Point; Don Cotton, First, Louisville; Levon Moore, Kosciusko; Randy Weeks and the Senior Adult Ensemble, East End in Columbus; Greta Lloyd, Starkville and the Joyful Noise Makers of First, Starkville.

Send \$5 registration fee to W. Levon Moore, Box 246, Kosciusko, MS 39090 by April 28.

Area 3 meeting will be held at Emmanuel Church in Greenwood. Among those on the program are Guy Henderson, MBCB; Pat Gullledge, First, Grenada; Cortez Hutchinson; Barry Worrell and the Senior Adult Choir of Emmanuel Church, Grenada.

For registration send \$5 to Mrs. W. E. McBride, 707 Brentwood Avenue,

Greenwood, MS 38930.

Area 2 meeting will be held at Booneville, First. Among the participants on the program are Dennis Smith, First, Corinth; Jack Maroon, Belmont; Marvin Cox, New Albany; Harris Counce, Booneville; Rick Spencer, Amory; Bill Duncan, Booneville; LLL Kazoo and Rhythm Band, First, Amory; Charles Stubblefield, area coordinator, presiding.

For registration, send \$3 to FBC, 401 West Church Street, Booneville, MS 38829 by April 28.

Area 1 meeting will be held at Batesville, First, where the reservations are due by Friday, April 28. Send names and \$5 per person to Aaron Lewis, Northwest Baptist Association, Box 381, Hernando, MS 38632. In all of these meetings the registration fee includes the lunch.

Among the program participants will be Guy Henderson, director of Evangelism, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Bob Maddox, Coldwater, and Coldwater Senior Adult Choir with special music.

Conferences view multi-family housing

(Continued from page 3)

location. They will take place May 8 at Bel Aire Church, Gulfport; May 9 at Hinds-Madison Association Building, Jackson; May 10 at West Laurel Church, Laurel; and May 11 at Northcrest Church, Meridian.

Church offers dependency aid

Persons having problems with chemical dependency are invited to an interdenominational James Club at First Church, Ridgeland. The group meets Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:45. Strict confidentiality is maintained. For details contact Ed Griffin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Ridgeland, 856-6139, or Daisel McDaniel at 957-0315.

The proportion of Christians in West Germany has declined "dramatically" since 1970. Greatest losses were suffered by the Protestant (mainline) churches. In some regions they lost up to 20 percent. Reasons given: strong influx of foreigners most of whom are non-Christians; lower birth rate; many people withdrawing their membership from the church.

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CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5:30	The Joy of Music/ Christophers Closeup	Sergeant Preston of the Yukon The Cisco Kid	Adventures of the Lone Ranger 30 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	Correspondence Vegetable Soup	Great Churches of America (II)	The Bible and Life The Good News
6:30	This Is The Life Westbrook Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Devo and Gethse Color Me A Rainbow
7:30	Profiles Changed Lives	30 Wall Street Sunshine Factory	Christian Lifestyle Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Campus Review Sunshine Factory	Insight Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
8:30	ACTS Methodical Hour	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Tobacco Kid
9:30	Come Alive Nelson Price	One In The Spirit Sergeant Preston of the Yukon	Catch the Spirit Richard Jackson	Judy's Kitchen Come Alive Nelson Price	30 Good Minutes Correspondence	ACTS Presbyterians Hour	Cisco Kid Puppet Theatre
10:30	Catch the Spirit Day of Discovery	The Cisco Kid Missions '88	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	...
11:30	ACTS Presbyterians Hour	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Hollywood Review	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Outdoor Magazine
12:30	The Baptist Hour	30 Wall Street Encore Theatre	U.C. Video News Encore Theatre	Word of Life Encore Theatre	Campus Review Encore Theatre	...	The Super Handyman Pilot Green
1:30	Sunday Selection	The Bible and Life The Good News
2:30	Missions '88	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Devo and Gethse Color Me A Rainbow
3:30	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Tobacco Kid	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
4:30	Day of Discovery One In The Spirit	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Story, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Tobacco Kid
5:30	First United Methodist Church, Houston Dr. O. James Kennedy	Adventures of the Lone Ranger 30 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	Correspondence Vegetable Soup	Great Churches of America (II)	Sergeant Preston of the Yukon The Cisco Kid	Puppet Theatre
6:30	ACTS Methodical Hour	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Courtesy Crossroads
7:30	Zale Levitt	Search	Word of Life	Campus Review	Created to Be One	Christian Lifestyle Sunshine Factory	Sing Out America
8:30	The Baptist Hour Evening Worship	The Joy of Music/ Christophers Closeup	Catch the Spirit 30 Good Minutes	Profiles First United Methodist Church, Houston	Insight to Life	30 Wall Street Joseph Television Network News	The Bible and Life The Good News
9:30	Richard Jackson	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Press Song Gospel Music Tales
10:30	Day of Discovery Jack Van Impe Presenters	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Bobby Jones Gospel Lightmusic
11:30	This Is The Life Sunday Selection	Adventures of the Lone Ranger	Great Churches of America (I)	This Is The Life Correspondence	Great Churches of America (II)	Lightmusic	Cisco Kid Puppet Theatre
12:30	...	20 Men	...	Vegetable Soup	The Cisco Kid Puppet Theatre
1:30	Missions '88	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Hollywood Review
2:30	ACTS Methodical Hour	Search	Word of Life	Campus Review	Created to Be One	Christian Lifestyle Sunshine Factory	...
3:30	Press Song Sunday Selection	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	...
4:30	Sing Out America

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Devotional

Controlling our tongues

By John Sharp
James 1:26

James wrote a letter to a group of Christians who had some problems. He urged these Christians to live in such a way that would be consistent with their claim of faith. He said to them, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and brideth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." James believed that Christian action and Christian faith are not two separate subjects, but only two ways of looking at the same subject. Jesus noticed that some Christians were inconsistent in that they claimed to be religious (members of the faith), but could not bridle their tongues. To him, these persons' religion was vain.



Sharp

This is true, isn't it? There is an emptiness about a person who claims to be one thing, but his tongue exposes him to be something else. Have you ever seen a Christian who could not bridle his tongue: a person who lost control of his temper; who cursed; who told lies; who gossiped about

someone? If you have been like me, you not only have seen a person like this, but you have done some of these things.

Have you ever invited someone to church and heard them say, "You know your church is full of hypocrites, don't you?" I feel the reason they speak this way is because they have observed undisciplined living in church members. They see them curse, gossip, and lie during the week and then they see them driving to church on Sunday morning with such a pious look on their faces.

One day I was talking with a man who made a statement similar to the one above. I pointed out several people in the community that I felt really lived the Christian life. He responded, "But they are different." I asked in what way they were different. He said, "They are real Christians; they practice what they preach." This man who admitted to me that he was not a Christian but had no problem in identifying a genuine Christian. He said, "They practice what they preach."

Doesn't it make sense, that if we call ourselves Christians, we must live like Christians? Or in other words, if we call ourselves Christians, we must bridle our tongues. I am convinced that the control of the tongue is very important in a Christian's life.

Sharp is pastor, Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol.

Pastor's portrait — 97 years later



Phil Waltman presents Lee P. Murrell's portrait to Bettye Seal at Conehatta.

Lee P. Murrell served Conehatta Church, Newton County, (also known as Pleasant Hill Church) for 44 years as pastor. On Jan. 22, 1989 — ninety-seven years after Murrell's death on Jan. 22, 1892, his great-great-grandson, Phil Waltman, presented his portrait to be hung in the Conehatta sanctuary. Bettye Seal, church secretary and chairman of the church's History Committee, accepted the gift for the church.

Murrell, born in North Carolina on Sept. 25, 1808, moved to Scott County, Miss., where he lived most of his life. In 1840, he professed faith in Christ and was baptized at Antioch Church, Scott County. After his ordination in 1844, he served in the gospel ministry for about 50 years.

On Aug. 4, 1848, Friendship Church, Scott County, was organized with Lee

Murrell, John Chambers, and William Denson forming the presbytery. Salem Church was organized in 1864; Murrell was one of its first pastors. When Forest Church was organized May 12, 1867, Murrell preached the organizational sermon. On June 22, 1867, Murrell, Dan Fore and N. L. Clarke organized Lake Church. After Good Hope Church was organized in 1882, Murrell and Dan Fore were its first two ministers.

In recent research, Martha Waltman, wife of Phil Waltman, fifth generation descendant of Murrell, discovered that Murrell, often called Uncle Lee, was a much-loved pastor, one who was "an untiring worker in the gospel ministry" and "a gifted speaker."

Pleasant Hill Church was organized July 3, 1841, with 20 members.

Allanson Phillips was pastor three years, and then Murrell for an unbroken 40 years. Murrell went to Texas a year, returned, and served four more years.

In church conference April 5, 1842, twenty-five members walked out of the church declaring, "We go out from among you because you are not of us." This was the Hardshell Secession at Pleasant Hill. At the next conference of the church, fellowship was withdrawn from those who walked out, but at the Jan. 1843 conference, 12 of those were restored to fellowship.

The church passed an order in April, 1845 that it would wash feet annually on first Sunday in July. This was continued for many years but finally discontinued.

The first house of worship was built in 1845. In 1856 the church sent its first messengers to the Mt. Pisgah (later to Newton) Association. In 1858, a new church was ready for use. The old church had been torn down and rebuilt into a pavilion for funeral services.

Until some years after the Civil War, slaves were members of the church. In about 1926, members gave labor and funds for a new church building in Conehatta, in town. In 1937, monthly services were held on the second Saturday and Sunday. Sunday School rooms were added in 1945, and the church went half-time.

In 1955, there were over a hundred members. Vacation Bible School was started in the summer months; the church went three-quarter time.

Other long pastorates included James E. Chapman, 15 years; and R. L. Breland, 12 years.

Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

In time of trouble

Editor:

I am writing this in regards of the ice storm so many thousands of people have been through.

We at Azalea Christian Manor, which houses elderly and handicapped, were without either lights or heat from Monday early hours until Thursday early hours.

Some were lucky enough to have places to go. And some would not leave because they would not leave some who were sick, some with no place to go.

But bless him, here come Bro. Joe Chapman, who was without lights, to help us. He went out, found us some hot coffee and hamburgers, and brought them to us. We shared. We may not have gotten a whole cup, for we divided, but we were able to draw assurance and strength from the experience, and will for a lifetime. Then on a Wednesday, Bro. Joe Chapman, Ridgecrest Baptist, Jackson, cooked stew enough for everyone. And then some. He and Wynema Kereryn served everyone on four floors. The only way they could get to them were dark stairs; but for the grace of God, they did just that.

And our manager, Pat McClendon, and her husband, Gary, brought us food and coffee. Ruby Godwin, a good Christian black lady, sent us coffee in the early hours. These five people who love God and man so much went out of their way to help us old and handicapped people who had no way to

help ourselves, and we thank God for them. God be with them always.

And we want to thank the ones who tried in vain to get us more candles or oil for some lamps. I am expressing gratitude from all of us who were here during a trying time, but we have learned a lot and found much comfort in each other.

Maybe more people will learn from this, that they would and could get a great blessing in helping others as these few did.

Marie Scott
Jackson

BJC representation

Editor:

I was very disturbed by the misleading guest editorial, "Fall from grace could carry heavy cost," by Robert E. Allen. What the editorial does is misrepresent the position of our Political Affairs Committee and their reason for proposing a separate office to represent SBC concerns.

The concern of the Political Affairs Committee as well as mine is the fact that 90 plus percent of the funding of the Joint Committee on Public Affairs comes from the SBC, but only one third of the voting representation is Southern Baptist. Moreover our representatives on the Joint Committee are unable to obtain financial accountability for the expenditures of our SBC funds. Our PAC would be doing a disservice to the SBC by not recommending a cessation of such

irresponsibility.

What the guest editorial did not say is the fact that the executive director of the BJC has been identified with the anti-Christian organization, "People for the American Way," and with that organization has participated in the vilification of such Southern Baptist Convention leaders as Charles Stanley and Bailey Smith.

Fortunately for those who want to go to the trouble to find the truth of the situation, this has been well-documented for us in James Hefley's *The Truth In Crisis*, V. 3. However, as Mississippi Baptists we should be reading this in the pages of our Baptist Record instead of being required to go to other sources. For those who do not have access to *The Truth in Crisis*, they only have to read the report from the PAC in the SBC Annual.

Inclusion of this guest editorial only serves to foment the unrest in the SBC and does not serve the interest of Mississippi Baptists.

Jerry Dale Patterson
Oxford

And what the above letter does not say is that when the director of the BJC found several years ago that his membership in PAW was offensive to some, he resigned. The part about the membership keeps coming up, but the resignation never does.

Hefley's books may be well-documented. I'd prefer not to comment on that. You will find just about everything that Hefley discussed in his books in the pages of the BAPTIST RECORD but from a more objective viewpoint.

Also it needs to be pointed out that if the 1989-1990 budget is adopted in Las Vegas, the Cooperative Program will be providing 53.6 percent of the

BJC budget. That is more than one-third but a great deal less than ninety percent.

By the way, the SBC presence on the BJC is the Public Affairs Committee. — Editor

Master's degree

Editor:

My number is 41365, and my name is Kenneth. I am 31 years old, and so far about 13 of those years have been spent in prison. I was a drug addict whom the doctors said had destroyed his brain with drugs. They told my parents when I was 17 that I would never be able to learn anything again.

On July 17, 1983, the Lord Jesus saved me, and he turned my whole life around! I just finished the work, four years worth, to get a B.S. degree with a major in Bible and a grade point of 2.9 (THANK YOU JESUS!).

I am hoping to start the work for a master's degree from Liberty University this May and trust the Lord will lay it on the heart of someone to sponsor me.

If you would like a copy of my testimony please write and let me know.

Kenneth Patterson
41365 Fire Dept.
Parchman, MS 38738

We have considered very carefully the use of the letter above. We are not supporting the request by running the letter. We have been in touch with the letter writer to explain that we cannot run a request for money, but we can allow him to explain his circumstances. Surely anyone who is interested in being of assistance can check with the chaplain. The writer has been in touch with the BAPTIST RECORD over a period of several years. — Editor

Hymns . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Chapman, Gipsy Smith, and Billy Sunday.

In 1912 Gabriel became associated with the publishing firm of Homer Rodeheaver, a relationship he maintained until his death in 1932. He was a prolific writer and is credited with writing more than 8,000 gospel songs, some anthems, and cantatas as well as many collections for children's, men's, and women's voices.

William C. Poole was ordained to the Methodist ministry in 1900 and served various churches in the Wilmington (Delaware) Conference. He died in Lewes, Delaware in 1949.

William J. Reynolds is professor of church music at Southwestern Seminary.

Conference on preaching set

A program jointly sponsored by Mississippi and Louisiana Baptists, the Sunday School Board, and New Orleans Seminary will offer discussion on "Preaching in the Context of Worship."

The conference will take place April 24-26 at the seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., beginning at 1 p.m., April 24, concluding at 11:45 a.m. on the 26th.

Topics include the presence of God in worship, sermon: idea to delivery; worship in times of joy and sorrow; and experiential preaching.

Housing is available for as little as \$14 per night. Contact the seminary's office of continuing education at (504) 282-4455 for details.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Joan Tyler, state WMU president

Joan Tyler has succeeded Wilda Fancher as president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

In the closing minutes of the WMU annual meeting March 21 at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, Joan confidently quoted Jeremiah 29:11 NIV: "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

She recalled that while she was praying about whether or not to let her name be placed in nomination for the state presidency, this verse had come to her attention. "Now I want to claim it as God's promise," she added, "not only to me, but also to Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, as we labor together."

She said that her husband, Charles, a family physician who has practiced in Collins for 30 years, had given his wholehearted approval to her election as state president because "he knows I must do what the Lord wants me to do."

Her experience in WMU leadership positions is extensive. For five years she was vice president of state Woman's Missionary Union. (during the 11 years she was on the state WMU Executive Board).

"Woman's Missionary Union," Joan once pointed out to me, "is a way a woman can fulfil her role as a missionary." She quoted a missionary speaker with whom she definitely agreed: "Being part of a mission organization is not an option. It is a responsibility, for every Christian woman."

In Covington associational WMU, she is current mission action/personal witnessing director, former Baptist Women director, and former WMU director. Through the years, her choice of personal ministry has been literacy work; she has tutored some individuals, and is planning a literacy



workshop in her association. She has participated in mission trips to California and Jamaica.

In Collins Baptist Church, she is current Baptist Women president and former WMU director.

A few years ago I wrote a column about Joan, when she was second vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. She was the first — and so far, is the only — woman ever elected as an officer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Also she served on a couple of the Convention's committees; she is a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Besides that, she was one of the two first women to become members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; she's served on that Board's Executive Committee. On the Southern Baptist Convention level, she has been a member of the Committee on Boards and of the Resolutions Committee.

Joan was born in New Orleans. Her parents, the Roehls, were members of the Episcopal church. Her mother was a London native, her father of German descent.

A friend invited Joan to go with her to First Baptist Church, New Orleans, and it was there that at age 15 Joan made a profession of faith in Christ and was baptized. Her Intermediate GA leader at that church was Mrs. Henry Love, who now lives in Memphis. Mrs. Love was present at the WMU convention the day Joan was installed as state WMU president. Mrs. Love's husband is director of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship.

At First Baptist Church, New Orleans, Joan met Charles Tyler, while she was working at the LSU Med School and he was a medical student at Tulane. She had by then graduated from Newcomb College. (Later she did graduate study in social work at USM.)

Both her children, Ken Tyler and Ellen Speed, live in Collins, so she can see her three granddaughters often. Twins Amy and Allison Tyler are 2½. Courtney Speed is six months old.

For 9½ years, Joan and her sister, Frances Cronlund, operated a gift and antique shop in Collins, but they sold it last year.

She is a talented writer who worked briefly as an editorial assistant and who has written Sunday School lessons for the Baptist Sunday School Board, as well as numerous missions programs for Mississippi WMU.

I wonder if she will still have time to walk 2½ miles every morning.

Everything she does, she does well. Perhaps I know why. I can hear now the voice of the soft spoken, green-eyed blonde: "I committed my life to do whatever the Lord wants me to do. When I feel he wants me to do something, I try not to say 'no.'"

President Noonkester says Carey won't close its coast campus

(Continued from page 3)

of the dorms, Wiley Fairchild, later noted he had made several payments, too.

Noonkester said that when friends of the college, 75-100 of them, were called on to contribute to the Mississippi Mission endowment campaign, "they transferred what they would have been giving . . . in this building campaign over to the endowment, and therefore the college came up with that coast commitment..the debt financing (over a 20 year period) requires \$300,000 a year. When that income sort of dried up in the former capital campaign . . . the college found itself where the general fund was making those \$25,000 per month payments."

Dale, a Prentiss layman, acknowledged with Noonkester that the school had built twice what it had needed. "Yes, we made a mistake . . . But you take a millstone, and if you're going to operate a mill, it becomes an asset," he said. "We're going to try to make an asset out of those apartments down there by filing

them up with Carey students." Another study commissioned by Noonkester by Minter and Associates of Colorado termed the coast apartments a "millstone."

In other matters, Noonkester said the college was placing all debt service into the budget come July 1 and that Carey's planning commission is working on a five-year long range plan which includes a marketing plan for recruitment of new students.

He said that the \$15 per semester hour tuition hike had brought in an additional \$400,000 in the past year and that accounts payable had been reduced by \$100,000, although some short term borrowing has been shifted to long term borrowing. And he noted \$364,209.23 in gifts this school year.

Asked if the controversy at Carey is related to basic Baptist theology, Noonkester said, "I am not going to comment in an analysis as to the way the convention itself sees our crisis right now. I have said all along that rather than looking at Baptist theology, the first place that we look is inside with some internal problems. I am not going to elaborate on those

right now." And he said one has to look at the financial challenges before Carey and other colleges.

"My hands have been tied by the media," said Noonkester, "as far as fund raising is concerned." He said enrollment has not apparently been hurt, but that investors in the college are not making earlier levels of financial commitment. "You essentially tie the hands of a fund raiser as long as the media is going to continue questions without the proper answers there for the constituency." He added that he was amazed the situation has not worked to the college's detriment any more than it has.

Said Dale, "We have problems. I'd like for the media, though, to help us. Don't tear us down. I know you want to report the true facts. But William Carey is a tremendous value to the community in which it operates . . . we've got to keep it going, it's going to keep going. We're in a lot better shape today than we were a year ago. We're going to make it. We're going to stay open. We're going to be a viable Christian institution. That's for sure. But we need help."

Sesquicentennial Celebration First Baptist Church, Starkville

April 16-23

Revival April 16-19

Dr. Herschel Hobbs, Evangelist

Celebration April 23

9:30 a.m. Historical Film "Our Heritage"

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Dinner on the grounds

12:30 p.m. Gospel Sing

All former members and friends are invited.

97 Missionaries Couldn't Go

A record number of 733 missionaries were appointed or approved last year for service on home mission fields throughout the nation. But 97 qualified candidates were unable to go because there were no funds to send them.

Easter has passed, and many have given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Many still have not.

If you have not given to the offering, consider giving a special gift now. If you have given, consider another sacrificial offering so that this year no missionary will be unable to go.

We need more missionaries on the field so that people may hear . . . and may believe.

Pray That
They May

Believe



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
National Goal for Home Missions: \$39 million

HMB

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Just for the Record



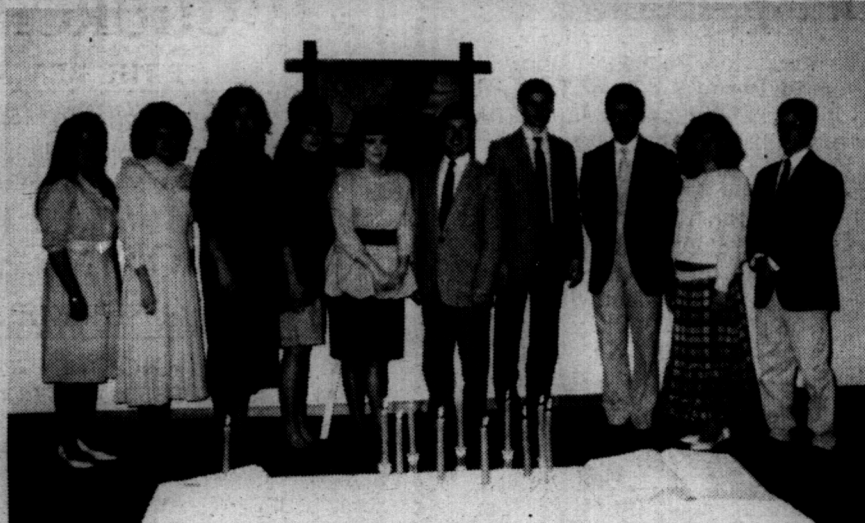
A note burning ceremony took place March 5, at Improve Church, Columbia. The renovation project (Consisting of renovation of the sanctuary, minister of music house, and paving of church parking lot) cost approximately \$150,000. The project began in September of 1985 with pledge cards and was completed in February of 1989. As the note burned, C. M. Brewer (left) led the congregation in a prayer of thanksgiving, after the pastor, R. B. Moore (right) dropped the burning bank note into the urn.

The "Sons of Faith" will be at Gatesville Church, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. The pastor is Phil Mullens; song director is Roland Dear. Gatesville is near Crystal Springs.

Central Delta holds crusade

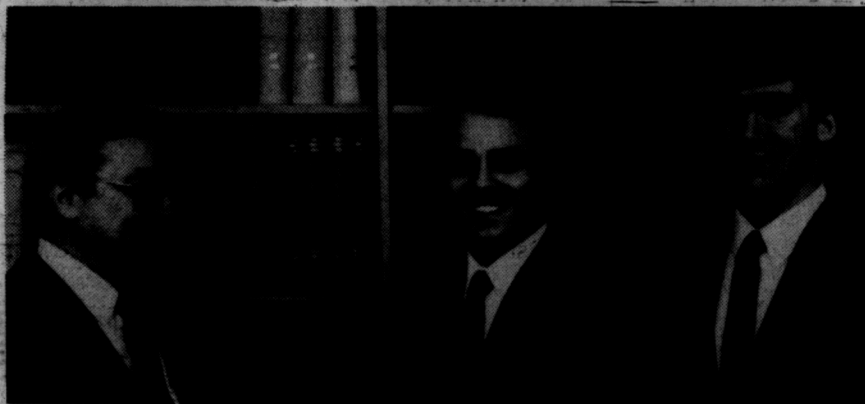
Unity in Christ is the theme of a Central Delta Crusade for Christ being held at the Mississippi Delta Junior College Coliseum in Moorhead, April 9-14. Nightly services begin at 7. Speaker is E. V. Hill, pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. Music leader is Don Ford of Tulsa, Okla.

Jerry Clower of Mississippi led in kicking off the program on April 9. E. A. Bailey is crusade director.



These are the new officers of the Baptist Student Union of Jones County Community College. From left they are Christina McGee, vespers; Tracy Davenport, social; Amy Cameron, puppets; Cindy Carter, public relations; Tina McDonnell, music; Wayne Thompson, morning watch; Scott Walters, evangelism; Chad Caraway, drama; Beth Anglin, secretary; and Patrick Scoggin, president. John Sumner is BSU director.

Names in the news



Kansas City, Mo. — M. Vernon Davis (left), vice president for academic affairs at Midwestern Seminary, congratulates two Mississippi Baptist college seniors upon their receipt of the "H.I. Hester Award for Excellence in Religious Studies." The students are (second from left to right) Les Hughes and Matthew Williams. Both attend Mississippi College in Clinton. Hughes is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Les Hughes of Louisville, Ky. He considers Louisville his hometown. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy R. Williams of Gautier, Miss., Williams considers Gautier his hometown. The recipients were honored for excellent scholastic achievement in the study of religion at the college level. They were nominated by the religion departments of their respective schools.

Revival dates

Woodville, Woodville: April 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Alan Woodward, First, Ellisville, preaching; Danny Jones, Church Music Dept., MBCB and Mt. Zion, Florence, music; Dan Howard pastor; Benny Still, minister of music and youth.

Wheeler Grove (Alcorn): April 16-20; services, nightly; Randy Isbell, Hopewell, Savannah, Tenn., evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

Hebron (Grenada): April 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 nightly; Michael Brooks, Morristown, Tenn., evangelist; Ben McDaniels, pastor.

First (Alcorn): April 16-19; Neal Prock, pastor, Haven Heights, Fort Smith, Ark., evangelist; Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, MBCB, music evangelist; services, Sunday, at 10:45 and 7 p.m.; (Mon.-Wed.) at 12 noon; nightly at 7; Dennis H. Smith, pastor.

Pearlhaven, Brookhaven: April 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. with lunch served at noon, afternoon service, 1:15 p.m.; 7 p.m., nightly; Robert Perry, Brookhaven, guest speaker; Mike Britt, Brookhaven, music director; Johnny Sykes, pastor.

Trinity, Pearl: April 16-20; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. at 7 p.m.; Gerald Buckley, pastor of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, evangelist; Buddy Casey, Parkway, Natchez, music evangelist; nursery provided; after the Sunday a.m. service, dinner on the ground; special choir music and solos each night; David Manasco, pastor.

Good Hope (Leake): youth revival, April 16-19; regular service, Sunday, with lunch in fellowship hall; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Greg Latham, pastor, McDonald (Leake), evangelist; Mark Gunn, music; Brenda Channault, pianist; Odell Tebo, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, near Quitman: April 16-19; J. Clark Hensley, Jackson, evangelist; Mike Davis, First, Charleston, music evangelist; Cary F. Worthington, pastor.

First Church, Starkville: sesquicentennial revival; April 16-19; at 10:45 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday; 7 p.m. nightly; Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus, First Church, Oklahoma City, former SBC president, and author of The Baptist Faith and Message, evangelist; J. M. Wood, Broadmoor, Jackson, music evangelist; Ray Lloyd, pastor.

Beulah, Inverness: April 17-21; services, 7 p.m.; Don Settles, Earle Church, Earle, Ark., evangelist; Jimmy and Susanne McLendon, music evangelists.

Good Hope Church (Perry): April 16-21; dinner on the ground Sunday; Mitchell Smith of Clara, evangelist; services nightly; David Mac Isaac, pastor.

Bowmar Avenue, Vicksburg: April 16-19; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Mark Tullis will lead in a drama revival; Fred E. Robertson, pastor.

Woodland Hills, Jackson: April 16-19; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., free meal at 11:30 and services at 12:15 in fellowship hall, and 7 p.m.; Julian Fagan, III, pastor, First, Minden, La.; John Burkett, minister of music, Central, Chattanooga, Tenn., music; Bill Fuller, pastor.

If you could kick in the pants the fellow responsible for most of your troubles, you wouldn't be able to sit down for six months. — Bill Nye

Colonial Heights hostess retires

Mrs. Pat (Mary) Patterson recently retired as the church hostess at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. She had served in this capacity for seven years. During this time the number served on Wednesday evening for supper grew from about 115 to over 400 and was rapidly approaching 500.

The number of meals served during the year of 1987-88 is about 1,500 with over 250,000 people served. "Not only did the number grow, but Mrs. Patterson always served a delicious meal, and provided a sweet, gracious and kind attitude toward everyone who came," said one church member. Mrs. Patterson's daughter, Mrs. Gwen McKenna, will serve in that same capacity. Often Mrs. Mary Patterson returns to add her expertise to the on-going ministry of Colonial Heights food service.

Prior to going to Colonial Heights, she served in a similar capacity of the First Church and Calvary, Jackson, and at the Mississippi Governor's Mansion.

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Fund to develop small church ministries

Ed Townsend, second from left, presents a check to Jimmy McCaleb for the "Jimmy McCaleb Church Music Ministries, Inc." The check, with others given for this purpose, will be deposited with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and the income will be used to help develop ministries in small churches served by bivocational ministers of music or volunteer leaders. Sarah Townsend is at left; Aubrey Boone, executive secretary of the Foundation, right. Any gift given through the Foundation is tax deductible.

Mississippi College radio station changes format

CLINTON — WHJT-FM (93.5), Mississippi College's commercially operated radio station, abandoned its adult-contemporary format on Easter Sunday for Christian contemporary music and this will become the trademark of the campus station.

The 3,000 watt, 24-hour a day station will become "Come Alive 93.5" and the format will include middle-of-the-road Christian music by artists such as Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Debbie Boone, Sandi Patti, and David and the Giants.

WHJT serves as a teaching station for Mississippi College students majoring in broadcasting or communications and most of the on-air staff is composed of students. The station is heavy on sports, covering all Choctaw and Lady Chocs contests plus Clinton High School and other area teams. The sports emphasis will continue, but expansion of news coverage is expected and the station hopes to promote local concerts with Christian-contemporary artists.

New Work Fellowship to honor mission-sponsoring pastors

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — The Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship will honor pastors of churches that have sponsored new missions June 12 at the group's annual meeting prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, Nev. In conjunction with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the fellowship will host a banquet for invited pastors of churches that started new missions between October 1987 and December 1988.

John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church in Houston, will be the keynote speaker for the 6:30 p.m. banquet at the Saharah Hotel.

The fellowship will also meet in its annual session at 1:30 p.m. that day at the hotel. Theme for the meeting is "Churches Starting New Congregations."

The conference also will include a report on the 25 churches to have been started in Nevada in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting, Mabry said.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- April 14-15 Single Adult Spring Retreat; FBC, Oxford; 7 p.m., 14th-3 p.m., 15th (Fam. Min.-CT)
- April 14-15 GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 14th-12:30 p.m., 15th (WMU)
- April 14-15 State Handbell Festival; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 p.m., 14th-3 p.m., 15th (CM)
- April 15 Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting; Calvary BC, Jackson; 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (DBS)
- April 17-21 Baptist Doctrine Study — in each church (CT Emphasis)
- April 17 State Bible Drills; 3-4:30 p.m., FBC, Gulfport/FBC, Greenwood (CT)
- April 18 State Bible Drills; 3-4:30 p.m.; FBC, Laurel/FBC, Senatobia (CT)
- April 18 Youth Choir Festival; FBC, Biloxi; 6:30-9:00 p.m. (CM)
- April 20 State Bible Drills; 3-4:30 p.m.; FBC, McComb/Calvary BC, Tupelo/FBC, Tupelo (CT)
- April 21 State Bible Drills; 3-4:30 p.m.; FBC, Meridian/FBC, Starkville (CT)
- April 21-22 State Handbell Festival; Mississippi College, Clinton; 7 p.m., 21st-2:30 p.m., 22nd (CM)
- April 21-22 GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 21st-12:30 p.m., 22nd (WMU)
- April 22 State Bible Drills; 1:30-3 p.m.; FBC, Brandon/FBC, Clinton (CT)

Puppetry Guild to feature Hilltop, Diana

The Mississippi Puppetry Guild will present its Performing Arts Festival for Children and Puppetry Jam '89 on April 20-22 at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive, Jackson. The festival will feature Barbara Coltz and her Pocket People Puppets from Atlanta.

Among many Mississippi puppeteers who will perform will be the Hilltop Puppets of Park Place Church, Brandon. They will do "Aesop's Fables" at 10:30 a.m., and at noon on April 20 at the lodge; and on Friday, April 21, at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. at the lodge.

On Saturday, April 22, Diana Chiles, puppet therapist at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, will present "A Boy Named Bernard" at noon and at 1:30 p.m. at the auditorium.

These are "for kids and up."

Wrong number!

An article in last week's Baptist Record inadvertently gave the wrong numbers for two of the "Remote Call Forwarding" service numbers of the Baptist Book Store.

The Greenville number for Washington Association should have been 334-9140, and the Senatobia number for the Northwest Association should have been 562-7039.

Remote Call Forwarding allows people in certain access areas to make local calls to place book store orders.

COM in north plans spring rally

Mississippi Campers on Mission will have their north division spring rally April 27-30 at Hugh White State Park at Grenada Lake, Grenada. The program includes music, worship, and a catfish supper. Speakers include Arthur Leslie, director of missions for Grenada Association, and Clarence Cooper Jr., pastor of Emmanuel Church. To register for the catfish supper, write James E. Ray, 752 Maple Lane, Grenada, MS 38901.

There are three kinds of church members: effective, ineffective, and defective.

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Baptist Sunday School Board

Lunch cost: \$2.50

(Make reservations by contacting the Sunday School Department, 968-3800)

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Any person can be in relationship with God

By Greg Martin

Joshua 5:3, 7, 9-12; 8:34-35

Many of the world's problems could be solved if individuals would learn to relate to God. This is the desperate need of every soul. In



Martin

Joshua we discover that there is a need to have a relationship with God based on personal commitment. In Chapter 5, Joshua assembled the men of Israel at Gibeah-haara-loth, the Hill of the Foreskins, for the purpose of renewing the covenant of circumcision. During the wilderness wanderings, the Israelites had failed to keep this sign of their relationship with God, verse 7. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant relationship between God and the Israelite people. The covenant relationship included agreeing to God's requirements and accepting his provisions. It began with Abraham in Genesis 17. It was a physical reminder of a spiritual communion with God. In the Pauline epistles the great apostle spoke much about the need for men to have their hearts circumcised by faith (Romans 2:25-29; Galatians 3:7).

Joshua 5:7 reminds us that having a relation-

LIFE AND WORK

ship with God is something that is personal. Persons in each generation must come into their own personal covenant with God. Some have suggested this rite was imposed on the people. This is doubtful for obvious reasons. As the Israelites had to willingly choose to enter into communion with God, so must men today. They must come individually. They must come willingly.

After the covenant had been renewed at Gilgal, the Lord spoke to Joshua (verse 9). God expressed his pleasure in the Israelites' obedience. The Lord removed the reproach of Egypt from the people. Scholars differ as to what "reproach" the Lord had in mind. Herschel Hobbs offers several suggestions: slavery, a state of uncircumcision, uncleanness of a foreign country, taint of the Egyptians, and suspension of the Abrahamic covenant. Perhaps by the Israelites' obedience all these reproaches were removed. One thing the text teaches us for certain is that being in covenant relationship with God releases persons to grow beyond limitations inherited by their past. After the Israelites were circumcised, the Lord

declared the reproach of Egypt rolled away.

After the renewal of the sign of the covenant, Joshua led the people to celebrate the Passover meal (verse 10). This instance is the third record of the springtime celebration. It originated in Exodus 12 the night before the historic exodus from Egypt. The second meal was observed one year after the escape from Egypt (Numbers 9:1-14). During the 40 year wandering in the wilderness not only was the sign of the covenant neglected, but also was this holy meal. With the crossing of the Jordan River and renewal of circumcision, celebrating the Passover followed logically. People who have experienced God's saving power have cause to celebrate. For the Israelites, celebrating was crossing into the land of promise and renewing their covenant. For believers today, there is cause to celebrate at the moment of conversion and at time of spiritual recommitment. Celebration is to occupy our hearts.

Not long after God's people were refreshed by obedience to the Lord's word did the mysterious manna cease (verses 11-12). There was no need for it since God's promised land was filled with various foods. These verses teach us that people who are in relationship with God discover that in every situation God

continues to provide for them. There is never a need he is not capable or willing to meet.

In Joshua 8, more can be seen of the Israelites growing relationship with God. After victories at Jericho and Ai, the people came to realize the importance of learning and obeying God's word (verses 34-35). At Shechem, Joshua had all the law read. This public reading informed the people of their responsibility in their covenant relationship with God. It was impossible for them to know God's guidelines outside of hearing God's word. This is no less true for God's people today. Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." Do you know God's word? Are you a doer of God's word?

A final observation can be made from verse 35. At the reading of the law none was excluded. In that culture women, children, and foreigners were considered second class citizens. However, at the reading of God's word, all were included. This indicates that any person, regardless of status, sex, or age, can be in relationship with God. How grateful I am that he included me!

Do you have a relationship with God? Is it a growing communion? Does it need renewal?

Martin is pastor, Commission Road, Long Beach.

Pressing on in Christ — growing toward maturity

By Gary G. Berry

Philippians 3:7-21

Every believer has a responsibility for growing toward spiritual maturity. The lack of regard many Christians give to this priority



Berry

matter is evidenced by the widespread spiritual immaturity in some of the churches.

Paul considered religion and moral achievement worthless when compared with the righteousness he had received by faith (vv. 7-9). From the standpoint of fleshly religious accomplishments, he had done everything by the book (vv. 4-6). His parents had brought him up with every advantage: circumcised on the eighth day; born of the people of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, the purest of the pure. He had worked hard and achieved much for himself, being recognized as a Pharisee, a zealous leader of those of like persuasion, a legalist to the core. The only problem was that with all these achievements, he

UNIFORM

had no relationship with God.

There are likely more than a few members of Baptist churches who have assumed that religion and moral achievements are a sufficient basis for having a personal relationship with Christ. That is a tragic mistake with eternal consequences. That assumption is one possible explanation for the un-Christlike actions of a church leader. The relationship of a man to Christ never rests on the merits of that man, but totally on the merits of Christ Jesus.

When Paul received by faith the righteousness of Christ, he was motivated to strengthen his relationship to Christ (vv. 9-11). Having experienced the transforming grace of God, Paul wanted to know Christ better and better. The emphasis of his desire to know Christ was upon personal relationship rather than upon the accumulated knowledge of technical information. One may assuredly conclude that when a person is born of the Spirit, indwelt by the Spirit, and filled with the Spirit, his heart

will yearn for a deeper relationship with Christ.

God had saved Paul for a purpose and he was determined to pursue that purpose (vv. 12-14). One person expressed it like this: "We are not saved to sit, we are saved to 'git'." Indeed, for every Christian, God has a purpose. One tragedy of the body of Christ is that so few believers ever really "press on" to spiritual maturity. The tragedy is multiplied when within the church spiritual infants are chosen for places of responsibility which demand spiritual maturity.

Wherever a Christian may find himself on the path of spiritual growth, there is an urgent need for advancement. Spiritual growth does not occur by accident. One must choose to make time for the spiritual discipline of prayer and meditation on the Word of God. One must decide to give himself away in ministry to others and in sharing the gospel with the lost. Above all, the Christian who would mature must bring his goals and purposes in line with the purposes of Christ. God has not chosen to accept the pursuits of carnal men as substitutes for his own purposes.

The lives of many professing believers reveal

them to be the enemies of Christ rather than the friends of Christ and his church (vv. 18-19). Paul lamented this situation. These were people who wanted to be regarded as Christians, but their lives contradicted the profession of their lips. They deceived themselves and exerted a devilish influence upon those who listened to them. Their minds were fixed on the values, prejudices, and allurements of this life. They were a menace to the body of Christ, and to the spreading of the gospel. They resisted spiritual truth and spiritual principles for living because they were spiritually dead.

The challenge of this generation of believers is to restructure their lives so as to enhance their spiritual development. True believers are not earthbound but heaven bound (Vv. 20-21). If one has his citizenship in one country, he does not invest his life in a foreign land where its values will surely pass away.

With much anticipation the Christian awaits the coming of Christ. When he returns for his children, will he find them in spiritual infancy, or having grown in his likeness to spiritual maturity?

Berry is pastor, First, McComb.

Controversy among Christians over accepting Gentiles

By Bert Breland

Acts 15:1-35

Paul and Barnabas, having completed their missionary journey which included Antioch of Pisidia, returned to Antioch of Syria, the home



Breland

base of their mission. At some point after their return, "some men" came down from Judea and began to preach that a person must become a Jew before he could be saved. There is little wonder that Paul and Barnabas took issue with these men. After all, they had given their lives to reaching Gentiles for Christ, and now this huge stumbling block was being placed in their way.

These "men from Judea" were apparently Jewish-Christians who were members of the sect of the Pharisees. Their interest was not in the spread of the gospel, but in the preservation of some of their sacred heritage. It speaks well for Paul and Barnabas and these men that they were willing to go to the elders in Jerusalem for this difference to be settled. They could have left the matter unsettled and continued their fight against one another without any kind of agreement. This would have led to deeper divisions which would have hindered the progress of the gospel.

This matter of Gentile salvation was brought before the apostles and the elders at the church

BIBLE BOOK

in Jerusalem. This conference has become known as the Council at Jerusalem. Even though we have no clear indication that the church at Jerusalem had any authority over the church at Antioch, or any other church for that matter, there seems to be an inferred authority upon the leadership of the Jerusalem church. After the testimony had been heard from the disputing parties, the apostles and the elders discussed the matter. However, there really doesn't seem to have been much discussion, from what the scriptures reveal to us. It appears that Simon Peter was the main speaker, and when he was finished they were ready to make a decision.

Simon Peter's argument reflected his experience with Cornelius. He referred to it as the "early days," which indicates that it was a long time ago. There is also a sense that what Peter was reminding them of was something they hadn't always practiced. Nonetheless, Peter was quite confident that God made a choice about the gospel, which most definitely included the Gentiles.

In his argument, Peter made several points that continue to be relevant in the preaching of the gospel. First of all, God makes no distinction between people because of race or social class. All people are the same in God's eyes. As one preacher put it, "The ground at the foot of

the cross is level; no man stands above another." Second, everyone whose heart is cleansed, it is cleansed by faith. There is no other way to receive God's salvation than to receive it by faith, no matter what your heritage. Third, we are all saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is not something that we have earned nor could we ever merit it. When it comes to any man it comes by the loving grace of God. John Wesley said that we all come to God "empty handed," unable to offer anything in return for what God has provided through his Son.

After Peter's testimony, Paul and Barnabas took the opportunity to tell of the great things that God was doing amongst the Gentiles. Apparently no one on the other side of the issue wanted to speak when Peter was through. After their testimony was heard, James spoke to give his judgment of the situation. He had become the leader in the Jerusalem church and, from all indications, everyone was willing to go along with his judgment. He, like Peter, could not lay a burden on these people that the Jews themselves had never been able to bear.

It is interesting to note that even though James agreed that circumcision and keeping the law were not required for salvation, he did suggest some guidelines for their behavior. However, these had nothing to do with their salvation, but rather with their social customs. This was an attempt on the part of James to make the Gentile Christians socially more acceptable to the Jewish Christians. James

recognized a problem among the Jewish brethren that remains until this day in the Christian church. There are still Christians today who are willing to accept people of another race into the brotherhood of salvation, but not into the brotherhood of fellowship.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Helping churches cope with AIDS focus of strategy

NASHVILLE (BP) — A coordinated, cooperative strategy to help Southern Baptist churches cope with the impact of the AIDS crisis is in the beginning stages of development, according to four denominational leaders.

Doug Anderson, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department; Richard Land, executive-director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission; Roy Edgemon, director of the SSB church training department; and Joe Stacker, director of the SSB church administration department, announced they will work together on the plan.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, (601) 922-2242

Accredited by the National Association of Homes for Children
Licensed by the State of Mississippi.

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Jan. 16, 1989 -
Mar. 9, 1989

MEMORIALS

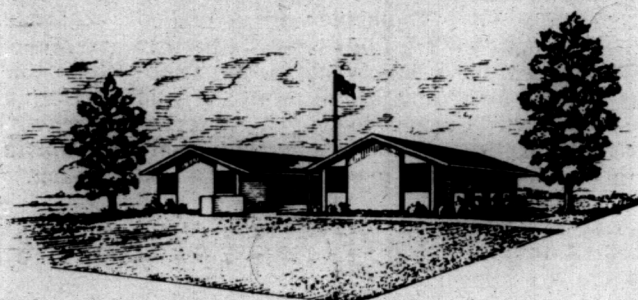
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Randolph & Anne McKee
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Mrs. Joy Cross
Harrel Chevrolet Company
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Mr. & Mrs. Howard A. Carroll
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Mr. & Mrs. Mack V. Furlow Sr.
(To be continued)



PAUL N. NUNNERY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Baptist Children's Village

P. O. BOX 27

CLINTON • MISSISSIPPI 39060-0027

April 13, 1989

AN OPEN LETTER TO INDIVIDUAL MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS:

Dear Friends:

In 1960, when I accepted this responsibility, many Baptist leaders, including those with Convention authority, reminded me that child care is particularly dear to Mississippi Baptists, and when extraordinary help is indicated, I need only ask for same. Repeatedly, I have been counselled by Baptist friends, "Trust the Lord and tell the people!" Since this is an operation of faith, relying solely and only upon voluntary contributions, and since this office has consistently informed those we serve about our program, I submit that we have undertaken to follow that philosophy. Once before, in 1984, it became advisable to alert individual Mississippi Baptists to an exceptional Village need, and such a time has again arrived. The Village needs immediate and generous money support, and I think you should know it!

A letter to every Baptist pastor in the state has recently been released, emphasizing the unusual importance of a substantial Mother's Day offering from the churches. In that letter, we recited a failure to meet minimum offering goals in each of the past five years. These budget goals have remained unchanged for several years, while major costs of operation over which we have no control, continue to accelerate. There has thus accumulated a financial operating problem which seriously threatens the stability of our efforts.

The Village does need special attention from local churches to its 1989 Mother's Day appeal, but, in all honesty, we absolutely require some immediate financial assistance, of a substantial order, from individual friends of this cause, before Mother's Day. I thought you should know, and I hope you will respond, without delay. On behalf of Village children, I beg an interest in your prayers for this cause, and I implore an unscheduled, but generous response to this immediate need. I assure you that I would not address you in this fashion, were it not necessary.

Sincerely,

PAUL N. NUNNERY
Executive Director



capsules

MissionsUSA adds Bangham

ATLANTA (BP) — Bill Bangham, editor of the young men's edition of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's World Mission Journal, has been named associate editor of MissionsUSA magazine.

The Annapolis, Md., native will assist Editor Phyllis Thompson in production of the bimonthly color magazine, published by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Alabama RA gets national award

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Matt Dunaway, an eighth grader from Oxford, Ala., is the first recipient of a new national award given by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Dunaway, a member of Greenbrier Road Baptist Church in Anniston, is the first member of the Baptist missions organization for boys to complete requirements for the National Pioneer Award.

Jeff Knight, an RA counselor at the church, said that Dunaway "takes being a Christian seriously, he is Christlike even with his peers at school."

Supreme Court rejects dispute over chaplains

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court has refused to review a dispute over whether public hospitals may employ chaplains.

In a one-line order, the justices rejected the appeal of three Iowa residents who claimed the employment of chaplains by publicly supported hospitals violates the First Amendment's religion clauses.

The high court's action leaves standing a decision by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals that upholds the constitutional right of public hospitals to employ chaplains.

Conventions increase school funds

NASHVILLE (BP) — The 18 Baptist state conventions which sponsor 63 Southern Baptist schools and colleges increased their total giving to the schools by \$1.4 million in 1987-88, an increase of 2.3 percent over the previous year.

The universities, colleges, Bible schools, and academies received \$63.9 million in support from state conventions in 1987-88. The amount includes about \$58.4 million in operating funds, \$4.5 million in capital needs funds and \$945,700 in additional endowment.

Northeast school faces budget pinch

BALTIMORE (BP) — The pinch from a proposed tighter 1989-90 Southern Baptist Convention budget will be felt by the fledgling Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry, the school's coordinator said at a recent meeting in Baltimore.

Doran McCarty told members of

the Northeast Task Team on Theological Education proposed cutbacks in the SBC operating budget will force the state conventions involved in the project be more aggressive in fundraising than originally thought.

The task team is composed of representatives of five Northeastern Baptist state conventions working in partnership with the six SBC seminaries and the Home Mission Board to launch the project.

McCarty said funds are in hand for start-up of the Boston and Pittsburgh centers. Projected income for the rest of 1989, however, is about \$12,000 short of anticipated needs at year's end.

Falwell employees must join his church, tithe

LYNCHBURG, Va. (EP) — About 2,000 employees in Jerry Falwell's various ministries must join his Thomas Road Baptist Church, and "tithes," or donate 10 percent of their salaries to the church, Falwell announced March 10.

Falwell spokesman Mark DeMoss said the policy was not a new one, and that the announcement was "simply a restatement and reemphasis of existing policy."

Seminary Extension introduces Barnabas program

NASHVILLE (BP) — A program that will provide ministerial learning experiences for students attending non-Baptist colleges was previewed by Doran C. McCarty, executive director of the Southern Baptist Seminary External Education Division at a workshop here.

"Young people committed to vocational ministry receive help and guidance if they attend a Baptist school, but more than 60 percent of those enrolled in our six seminaries studied at non-Baptist colleges or universities," McCarty said. "What kind of preparation did they receive?"

The Barnabas Program, when it is in place, will seek to address this concern. It will begin this fall with two pilot locations, with six additional pilots planned for the fall of 1990, McCarty said.

The program, designed to provide undergraduate background for seminary study, will involve directors of Baptist student ministries at non-Baptist schools in helping students gain basic biblical and theological training through the study of Seminary Extension courses. They also match the students with mentors who are experienced in ministry.

Participants heard of nine new courses in the seminary extension program including one for working in correctional institutions.

Also introduced during the workshop was a new diploma plan which will allow Seminary Extension students to earn a diploma from one of the Southern Baptist seminaries.

Jack Cunningham, director of the division's seminary extension department, explained that the new plan would require the completion of 64 semester hours. Up to one-half of these credits could be earned through correspondence study.

Music scholarships awarded

The State Youth Four Part Music Festival was held at Colonial Heights, Jackson on Feb. 18. This festival is sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In the Keyboard part of the festival four participants were awarded college music scholarships to a Mississippi school. When a participant elects to attend a Mississippi Baptist College that college matches the scholarship award presented by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The four recipients at the 1989 festival were Shelly Langley, Taylorsville; Amy Ford, Vicksburg; Jan Oden, Greenwood; and Jenae Pearson, Pontotoc. Jenae Pearson also received the judges' awards in organ and piano.

Each participant who received superior in all areas of adjudication was presented a scholarship to a Baptist summer music event at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest or Glorieta. Robert Baldwin, Laurel; Christy Burns, Southaven; Lisa T. Magee Columbia; Tara Johnson, McNeill; Weslea Calhoun, Brandon; Tonya Louise West, Waynesboro; Tamra Smith, Southaven, and Gina Gordon, Taylorsville, received this award as did the college scholarship recipients.

Dot Pray coordinated the Keyboard part of the Festival and serves as the keyboard contract consultant for the Church Music Department.

Chad Phillips, a senior from Pascagoula, received a superior rating in the Conducting part of the festival. He will receive a \$200 college scholarship to a Mississippi college of his choice. Brian Lowe, an eleventh grader from Winona, received a superior rating in the Instrumental Part of the festival and a scholarship of \$25 to attend a Baptist summer music event at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest or Glorieta.

Gretchen Nelson, a senior from Ruth, received a superior rating in the instrumental part of the festival as



Pictured from left are Rob Futral, Dana Freeman, Angela Williams, Gretchen Nelson and Chad Phillips — these received superior ratings in the Vocal Part of the Four Part Festival.



Langley

Oden



Jenae Pearson

well as the Vocal part of the festival. She will receive a \$400 scholarship to a Mississippi college of her choice.

John Hanbery coordinated the Instrumental and Conducting Parts of the Festival and Susan Clark coordinated the Vocal Part. Hanbery and Miss Clark are contract consultants for the Church Music Department.

Missionaries say Bible reading kept them sane

QUITO, Ecuador (Ep) — Two kidnapped American missionaries who were released March 12 after two months of captivity say Bible reading saved their sanity during the ordeal. Roy Libby and Richard Grover were released unharmed, apparently after convincing their captors they were not narcotics agents.

Libby, 53, of Portland, Oregon, and Grover, 45, of Warroad, Minnesota, were kidnapped January 3 by armed guerillas while going to a Gospel Missionary Union (GMU) meeting in La Florida, 160 miles southwest of Bogota, Colombia. Libby is the GMU field director for Colombia; Grover works in church planting and development.

In a telephone interview with Newhouse News Service, Libby said the pair read the Bible aloud for up to 10 hours a day during their captivity. "That was probably the thing that saved, if you call it that, our sanity."

He added, "We decided right from the beginning that [the guerillas] were in control of our lives so in that sense we had to submit ourselves to their rules without compromising our position or beliefs." He said they were treated well, fed regularly, and never blindfolded or bound. The captors asked questions about the Christian faith, and Libby said, "None of them became a Christian, yet there was a real hunger."

Staff changes

Edsol C. Wells has retired after 38 years. He was ordained by Shubuta Church, January 1961 and has served pastorates at Harmony and Elin in



Wells

Clarke, Edon in Jasper, South Laurel in Jones, Causeyville and First Marion in Lauderdale, and Immanuel in Adams.

He will be available for supply and interim and can be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 40-F, Lauderdale, MS 39335 or phone 601-632-1088.

Robert Harville has accepted the pastorate of Macadonia Church, Calhoun County.

Leslie Hicks is the new pastor of New Hope Church, Calhoun County.

Edd McCafferty has moved to the pastorate of Duncan Hill Church, Calhoun County, from Bluff Springs Church, Benton County.

Philip Caples has resigned as pastor of Westside Church, Calhoun County, to serve at Zion Church, Pontotoc County.

Charlie Martin has resigned as minister of music at Mt. Vernon, Lowndes County, effective June 4. He will continue his studies at New Orleans Seminary.

Eastview Church, Lowndes County, has called Reagan Rye as pastor. Rye lives in Sulligent, Alabama, and will be moving to the Columbus area in May.

W. Gary Creech is the new pastor of Fellowship Church, Pike Association. He moved from Bethesda Church, Union Association. Creech is expected to graduate from New Orleans Seminary with a master of divinity degree in May.

Phil Edge is available for pulpit supply or interim work. He can be reached at 114 West Starling, Apt. 12, Greenville, MS 38701. He is a hospital chaplain there.

Baptist Record

005-0000 BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
401 N. 3RD ST. SUITE 401
NASHVILLE, TN 37203
4-13

April 13, 1989

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205